

[Read Congressman Boucher's letter to the Corps Urging Retention of Nationwide 21 Permit](#)

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**CONGRESSMAN BOUCHER RESPONDS TO U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUSPENSION OF NATIONWIDE 21 PERMIT FOR SURFACE MINING**

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***Boucher Reiterates His Support for Approach Which Would Enable Surface Mining to
Continue In a Timely Manner***

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□□□□□□□□□□ (Washington, D.C.) –U.S. Representative Rick Boucher today expressed dissatisfaction with the decision of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that it will suspend use of the Nationwide 21 permit for surface mining in the Appalachian region.

“I regret that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has suspended use of the Nationwide Permit 21 in the Appalachian Region. An appropriate balance must be struck between protecting the environment and allowing essential coal mining activities that support economic growth. I am disappointed that this announcement does not achieve that balance, and I urge the Corps to adopt a responsible approach that maintains the Nationwide 21 process.

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rigorous requirements of the Individual Permit process. Operations exceeding the threshold of the Appalachian Regional Permit would be permitted through the Individual Permit Process. The announcement by the Corps effectively requires all new surface mining operations to be permitted through the Individual Permit process.

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